



PIER Energy System Integration Program Area

Distributed Energy Resources Public Website

Contract #: 100-98-001 **Project #:** 34

Contractor: Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Project Amount: \$160,157

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Status: Completed

Project Description:

The purpose of this project was to develop a web site to provide current, reliable information about distributed energy resources (DER) to assist a broad public audience in evaluating and implementing DER.

Distributed energy resources are poised to play a key role in California's energy future. Yet many people—including energy professionals, policy makers and energy consumers—are not knowledgeable about DER technologies and associated issues. This lack of knowledge has presented a barrier to DER implementation and deployment.

To meet the need for accurate and objective information about DER, the PIER Program and EPRI developed the California Distributed Energy Resource Guide. This public benefit website addresses all aspects of DER in a well-organized, easy-to-use structure. The website includes much of the information developed by EPRI's distributed resources program over the past several years. The EPRI program provides unbiased information to help all DER stakeholders to understand DER's role in the evolving energy enterprise. The information is the latest and best available, derived from primary research, original studies, and an extensive network of contacts in the DER industry, energy companies, research organizations, and government.

The site can be accessed from the CEC's home page by clicking the link to Distributed Generation in the right hand links column under "Power Plants & Licensing" or directly at:

www.energy.ca.gov/distgen

This project supports the PIER Program objectives of:

- Improving the reliability/quality of California's electricity by providing information to support development of generation options that provide peaking power, enhance system reliability, and assure power quality.
- Improving the energy cost/value of California's electricity by assisting in the development of innovative distributed resource technologies that can potentially provide lower delivered cost electricity than central station power.
- Improving the environmental and public health costs/risks of California's electricity by providing information to support the development and implementation of fuel cells and other environmentally preferred generation technologies.

Proposed Outcomes:

By providing information to stimulate the development of distributed energy resources, this project will help:

- Reduce the cost of electricity and increase its value.
- Increase the reliability of the electric system.
- Reduce the environmental impacts of electricity generation, distribution and use.

- Enhance California's economy.
- Demonstrate a connection to the market.
- Advance science and technology not provided by competitive and regulated markets.

The DER Public Web will present information that addresses the needs of the public/consumers of California who may be interested in a DER application at their home or business. The site's intended audience also includes equipment vendors, consultants, government agencies, and the research/academic community. Information categories include:

- Background/introduction.
- DER technologies.
- Economics of owning and operating DER technologies.
- Markets and applications for DER in California.
- Electrical interconnection.
- Examples and case studies.
- Policy implications.

Project Status:

The project was completed January 29, 2002. The DER Public Web: www.energy.ca.gov/distgen offers information of value to anyone interested in DER, whether they are seeking a basic introduction to DER equipment and benefits or they are seeking more in-depth information on economics, permitting, regulatory activities and policy issues.